



The *E-Gobrecht*

Liberty Seated
Collectors Club

2019 Volume 15, Issue 2

February 2019 (Whole #169)

LSCC Gathers in Orlando! SeatedFest II next month in Baltimore!

Approximately 30 LSCC members attended the club meeting held in Orlando, FL in conjunction with the winter FUN convention. Orlando in January is a great venue for a coin show, as snow starts to creep into the northern portions of the country, and a trip south is perfect remedy. If there are coins involved, so much the better. Dealers and collectors seem to agree, and the FUN show is arguably the largest commercial affair on the coin calendar. Indeed, Heritage posted January numismatic auction sales of \$71 million, much of which reflected the strength of the FUN show.

Club president Gerry Fortin kicked off the LSCC meeting on Friday, January 11. As is the custom, the meeting began with member introductions and a group photo. The member introductions serve to build our group as a social experience, and I try to meet at least one new member at every club meeting. This being January, Gerry urged all members to pay dues for 2019 – after several years of concerted effort, many members have switched to paying multiple years in advance, and the club leadership is grateful for the reduced paperwork. Gerry went on to discuss two important upcoming events:



SeatedFest II: This will happen at the Whitman Baltimore Expo, February 28 – March 2. Some of you may recall the similar event we had in 2011. On exhibit will be a wide variety of seated coinage, including:

- Collections of all seven Liberty Seated series, half dimes through Trade dollars
- The unique 1870-S half dime
- The John Frost collection of double dime Exonumia



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The *E-Gobrecht* is an award winning informal electronic publication of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club (LSCC). The LSCC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the attributions of the Liberty Seated Coin series. The LSCC provides the information contained in this email newsletter from various sources free of charge as a general service to the membership and others with this numismatic interest. You do not have to be a LSCC member to benefit from this newsletter; subscription to the *E-Gobrecht* is available to anyone. All disclaimers are in effect as the completeness and/or accuracy of the information contained herein cannot be completely verified. Contact information is included on the last page.



(Continued from previous page)

- The Carl Feldman collection of Seated dollar Exonumia
- Collector-grade keys and semi-keys from all seven series

We are still looking for half dollar exhibitors, so please contact me (leonard.augsburger@wustl.edu) if you are interested. You need not have a “finest known” set – a set of half dollars in choice condition, regardless of grade, is always worth studying. In addition, John Frost will be spearheading a set of educational sessions covering all aspects of seated coinage (sign up for this at <http://www.lsccweb.org/SeatedFestII.shtml>, admission is free). There will be a club dinner at the Pratt Street Ale House (just across from the convention center) on Thursday, February 28. All in all, this will be a great couple days of looking at neat coins and hanging out with fellow collectors.

ANA Summer Seminar: After a year off, LSCC returns to the ANA summer seminar with a course in seated coinage to be offered in Colorado Springs, CO from June 16-19. Teaching the class will

be John Frost, Craig Eberhardt, and myself. It's a lot like being at a coin show, except without the buying and selling. See <https://www.money.org/summer-seminar> for more info.

The LSCC meeting at the FUN convention concluded with a most important presentation by Steve Petty on the subject of CAC certification. Steve has been given access to CAC certification statistics and shared some of the data at the meeting. A fuller presentation will be made in the *Gobrecht Journal* in due course. Tidbits included the number of Liberty Seated quarters with gold CAC stickers (36), the percentage of all PCGS/NGC Liberty Seated coins with CAC stickers (between 4% and 9%, depending on the series), and the all-important CAC success rate for submitted coins (about 1 in 3, depending on several factors – higher value coins tend to have a lower success rate). We look forward to seeing Steve's full analysis in the future, and acknowledge CAC for their transparency in making this data available. It shouldn't be a mystery why one coin gets the “green bean” and another doesn't, and, with a common understanding, the playing field is leveled for everyone.

Register Now for SeatedFest II on the LSCC website

You can register for the educational programs on the LSCC website, www.lsccweb.org. Specifically, you can go to the following web page:

<http://www.lsccweb.org/registration.html>

All of the information on the registration form is required.

Important: If you discover you need to cancel one or more of the sessions, please notify us via email at lscc@lsccweb.org to let us know. We expect a lot of interest, so please don't register and then be a no-show. Thanks for your interest, and your cooperation.

LSCC SeatedFest II Educational Programs Registration

You may use this web page to register for one or more of the educational sessions presented by the LSCC at SeatedFest II in Baltimore on Thursday February 28th and Friday March 1st 2019. Attendance is free, but requires advance registration. Please complete all registration information below, select the sessions you wish to attend, and hit the **SUBMIT REGISTRATION** button at the very bottom of the page. Deadline for submission is February 20th, 2019. However, space in the program is limited, so we urge early registration.

Important: If you discover you need to cancel one or more of the sessions, please notify us via email at lscc@lsccweb.org to let us know. We expect a lot of interest, so please don't register and then be a no-show. Thanks for your interest, and your cooperation!

All fields are required:

Name:

LSCC# or enter "Guest":

Email Address:

Phone number:



Quarter of the Month

by Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

So, John, goodbye and thanks again!

I purchased my first Liberty Seated coin at a local show on May 2, 1992. Just out of school and with my first positive cash flow in many years, I was taking a few hundred dollars cash every month or so and buying raw Morgan Dollars and an occasional Saint at the local shows. My biggest challenge was getting the attention of dealers (mostly over age 60) because I appeared to be about 12 years old. That day, there weren't any of my usual purchases to make and an XF+ 1853-O half dollar caught my eye. I paid the dealer, whom I knew reasonably well by then, \$160 for it. The next show, the same dealer had an AU 1838 seated quarter (cleaned, though I didn't know that then) which I also purchased. Fascinated with these two coins, I started looking for information. I think I found out about the LSCC in *Numismatic News*, but I don't recall for sure. I sent a handwritten inquiry to John McCloskey by snail mail, or "mail" as we called it at the time. He responded with instructions about where to send my check to join the LSCC and a recommendation that I buy a book or books from the series just published by Blythe, Greer, Briggs, and Wiley and Bugert. I sent him the check and immediately purchased a copy of Briggs' book and a copy of Wiley and Bugert's book; instigating an obsession that continues to this day.

Kids (three in total) began arriving in 1993 and my Liberty Seated collecting stopped abruptly for over 10 years. Resuming my club membership in 2004, John encouraged me to attend a club meeting, which I finally did, attending the LSCC meeting at the Central States Show in Columbus, OH in 2006. I made the trip of about three-and-a-half hours to Columbus by arising early the same morning to make the 9 AM meeting time. John welcomed me and introduced me to Len Augsburger, Dennis Garstang and Weimar White who had all come to Columbus for the meeting. I also met Dick Osburn at the show and suffered a nearly fatal coin overdose at his table. The club meeting, a couple of conversations with Len, and the buzz of the regional

show were like throwing fuel on a fire and for the next three years I bought way more coins that anyone really should.

John McCloskey was a professor. There are good and bad qualities to typical professors and John had both of them. But for me, having spent 10 years of my life in academia, he was a familiar figure. Whether I did or not, I felt like I understood John, was comfortable with him, and knew pretty much what to expect - including his interest in research and publication. He encouraged, and maybe even pushed, me to research and write about Liberty Seated quarters. Before long I was working with him to publish a die study of 1853-O quarters, to formulate the Top 25 Quarter Variety Set, and to conduct the subsequent survey. It was like working with a senior professor who knew exactly what he wanted and exactly how he wanted it; familiar territory for me. John, for some reason, would call my cell at precisely 8:00 PM on Friday when he was ready to discuss my writing. It was never any other day and it was never any other time.

I was at the ANA club meeting when John retired as LSCC President. His retirement speech left an impression. It was humble. Far more so than what I usually heard from retiring senior professors. And I was touched by his observation that he found more meaning from his life in numismatics than he did from his life as a professor.

When John passed in December, I considered writing this remembrance for the January *E-Gobrecht*. I chose not to because I had spent so much less time and interacted with him so much less than others. But when I opened the January *E-Gobrecht* and read the memorial page there were six photos included. One of the six is of John and I deep in a discussion of Liberty Seated quarter varieties. The fact is that despite a short total amount of time together, John had a big influence on my life in numismatics. So, John, goodbye and thanks again!



Cracked, Shattered, and Terminal

by Benny Haimovitz, LSCC #2494

Thanks so much, Benny!

With this issue, we thank Benny for all his efforts in supporting the Liberty Seated Collectors Club and the *E-Gobrecht*. Personal demands call for him to put his efforts elsewhere and he will no longer author this column. I am going to miss it, as I know others will. He always had very interesting late die state coins to share with us. Benny is not leaving the LSCC as he will still be active collecting and attending shows. See you there, Benny, and thanks again!

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The Curious Collector

by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

Predicting Auction Prices is Tricky!

Last month, we looked at three 1870-CC quarters in the January 2019 Heritage FUN auction and made predictions as to how each would perform in the sale. Let's see how we did.

Lot 3224, PCGS Genuine Poor/Fair Details: I predicted \$3,500 for this coin, it sold for \$3,600. The coin is a "filler" piece, ideal for a lower grade Liberty Seated quarter set. It's not terribly attractive, but genuine and quite rare. If you believe rarity trumps eye appeal, this would have been the coin for you. I nailed the price on this one but the next two are a different story. (Heritage link: <https://coins.ha.com/itm/seated-quarters/quarters-and-twenty-cents/1870-cc-25c-damage-pcgs-genuine-poor-fair-details-briggs-1-a/a/1291-3224.s?ic4=ListView-ShortDescription-071515>).

Lot 3225, PCGS G4: I predicted \$9,500 for this one, it sold for \$6,300. What happened? The coin had a previous auction appearance in 2013, where it sold for \$8,812.50. Someone took a haircut here. The marks on the obverse may have been more distracting in-person than what's conveyed in the online image. The other thought I have about this coin is that perhaps it should have been retailed instead of placed at auction. It

would have taken longer to sell, but this is the tradeoff you make when disposing of a coin. PCGS Coin Facts shows four sales of G4 coins from 2010 to 2013, in the range of \$7,475 to \$12,338. The market may have softened, but not that much. Watch the bourse floor for this coin, I suspect it may reappear, and at a higher retail price. I think the buyer did well here. (Heritage link: <https://coins.ha.com/itm/seated-quarters/quarters-and-twenty-cents/1870-cc-25c-good-4-pcgs-briggs-1-a/a/1291-3225.s?ic4=ListView-ShortDescription-071515>).

Lot 4457, PCGS VF20: The coin sold for \$16,800, vs. a prediction of \$22,000. I'm not sure what I was thinking here. The consignor is probably thinking they should have sold it to me directly! PCGS Coin Facts shows two VF20 coins recently sold, one at \$14,688 and another at \$21,150. This one was in the middle, which is about where it should have been. For pricing thinly traded rarities like this, the previous auction prices realized are indispensable. (Heritage link: <https://coins.ha.com/itm/seated-quarters/quarters-and-twenty-cents/1870-cc-25c-vf20-pcgs-briggs-1-a/a/1291-4457.s?ic4=ListView-ShortDescription-071515>).





LSCC Calendar

January 31-February 2, 2019. **LSCC table, LSCC-BCCS social dinner. Long Beach, CA.** Long Beach Expo, Long Beach Convention Center. Check club website for exact details.

February 1-2, 2019. **LSCC table and educational program. Knoxville, TN.** Rothchild Conference Center. Check club website for exact details.

February 28-March 2019. **LSCC SeatedFest II, many exhibit tables, regional meeting, and educational programs. Baltimore, MD.** Whitman Baltimore Expo, Baltimore Inner Harbor Convention Center. See article on pages 1-2 of this issue. Register online at the club website.

All dates: see the LSCC website (www.lsccweb.org) for additional events and details.

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Regional News

by Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

It's SeatedFest II Time!

The FUN show was held January 10-13. John Frost hosted the club table, here's his report:

At FUN 2019, the show was in a new hall, with a completely different layout than previously. The hall was narrower and deeper than normal, and despite a table well toward the back, traffic was brisk throughout the show. Having returned most of the historical artifacts to the descendants of William and Charles Barber, we did have a few remaining pieces on display before returning them to the family the following week. It was hard letting some of that stuff go! Quite a few folks who didn't get to Philadelphia, Baltimore, or Manchester were able to see the original sketches by William Barber and some of his medals at FUN. Mixed in were a nice assortment of Trade Dollars and Double Dimes. Our normal booth staff was augmented by first-time volunteer Mike Topp, who allowed this individual to walk around the entire floor for the first time in a year! Thanks also to Carl Feldman and Joe Casazza, without whom this past year could not have been possible.

Houston January 18-19; following FUN John traveled to Texas for the Houston show.

After a quick stop in New Orleans to return the remainder of the Barber memorabilia, it was off to Houston. The LSCC table was staffed by yours truly, with the assistance of Bob Duzan of the BCCS. Brian Cushing stopped by as well on occasion when he had a break from his table. The Houston show had its second year in the northern suburb of Conroe, and like last year's inaugural show, it didn't disappoint. Attendance was heavy both Friday and Saturday, and people of all ages stopped by the booth. More so than at FUN, there was a healthy YN (Young Numismatist) presence, as young collectors accompanied their parents or came with Scout troupes. It was great fun showing them that yes, the U.S. made a 20-cent coin,

and explaining chop marks on Trade Dollars.

Between FUN and Houston, we signed up three new members and collected numerous existing members' dues renewals. Also, three members purchased polo shirts so we will see them proudly displaying the LSCC Colors at future events.

The Long Beach Expo is being held January 31 – February 2, Brian Cushing is hosting the club table and the clubs get together out on the West Coast. The wrap up will be in next month's edition.

John Frost and Dennis Fortier will be in Knoxville February 1-2 to host the club table at the Knoxville Coin and Currency show. There will also be educational presentations on Friday and Saturday. Dennis Fortier will give a new presentation on "*The Liberty Seated Half Dollars of Philadelphia*."

SeatedFest II

At the Whitman Expo, Baltimore

February 28 – March 2

SeatedFest II, the club leadership has put a great deal of time and effort into this marquee display of primer Liberty Seated coinage. Come view some of the great rarities of the various Liberty Seated series as well as some of the finest collections currently assembled.

The only example of the 1870-S Half Dime and the finest known 1870-S Liberty Seated Dollar will be special showcase coins in this one time exhibit.

John Frost has put together a marvelous educational program for this event. Seating is limited so sign-up early to assure your place for these extraordinary lectures.

We have reserved space for 30 club members at the club dinner on Thursday night, February 28, at Pratt Street Ale house. See Dennis Fortier early about attending and reserve your place for the dinner.



Seated Shorts

From Keith Scott, LSCC #2005:

Hi Bill,

I appreciate the W-B book I purchased from you some 12 (who knows?) years ago. I will not be selling it for a long time.

I recently (FUN) completed my SL 50C set with the 1878-S and 1857 proof. While not your story of people surrounding you at auction chanting Spend, Spend..... I was methodical in budget, discipline, etc. while phone bidding and watching things in real-time. Last year I completed the SL 25C set and exhibited it at the San Jose Coin Show in January 2018. This set will be exhibited at the Cupertino Coin Show (Calif) on February 17. I'll be on hand for mental health professionals to measure me for a strait jacket . I built a museum grade portable display system about 6 years ago that was inspired by Dick Osburn's set just prior to sale at auction. The concept of portability depends on space and strength (125 lbs.) - a subject for a future (soon) article in the print media.

Regards,

Keith Scott (LSCC #2005)

[Editor's note: As I mentioned to Keith in an email, I welcomed him to a very select group of Liberty Seated half dollar collectors. Owning an 1878-S half dollar! Not many collectors can say this, and it is not always found in collections – precisely, no more than 60 at a time can own one. Congratulations!]

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Auction News

by Craig Eberhart, LSCC #1348

Heritage Signature Auction - FUN Show, January 9-14, Orlando. As usual, the new year started off with the largest, or one of the largest, coin shows of the year: The 2019 Florida United Numismatists (FUN) Convention and the associated Heritage auction. This auction included many impressive collections, but several that stood out to me were the Alan Weinberg collection of early American coinage with multiple 1792 pattern coins; part VII of the Greensboro collection with a complete collection of proof and circulation strike Trade dollars; and many better Liberty Seated halves from the Big Sky Collection of Half Dollars. The Greensboro collection included many of the finest graded Trade dollars and examples of the rare 1884 and 1885 proofs. Also included in this auction was "Rich's Colorful Proof Indian Cents," a collection assembled by Rich Uhrich a long-time member and supporter of the LSCC.

Better date Liberty Seated coins were impressively well-represented in this auction. There were nine 1875-CC double dimes and a good selection of better date quarters including an 1850-O in a PCGS CAC AU58 holder that sold for a very strong price of more than three thousand dollars. Only a few of the many better date Liberty Seated half dollars are listed below. These include two 1840-(O) medium letters reverse halves which I consider a one-year type coin, both varieties of the 1842-O small date small letters half dollar, and two examples of the rare 1878-S. As with the half dollars, there were numerous better date Liberty Seated dollars in the auction with only a few listed below. One Trade dollar is listed and, at 192 thousand dollars, was "only" the fourth most expensive Trade dollar in the auction.

Auctions listings are on the following page.

Legend Regency Auction 30, January 27, Beverly Hills CA. Perhaps this auction can also be called a pre-Long Beach auction, like Goldberg's, since it is in the Los Angeles area just before the Long beach coin show. Only a few Liberty Seated coins were in this auction, but there were a couple of interesting dates: an 1858 quarter with a Flying Eagle cent reverse die clash and an AU-58+ 1840 Liberty Seated Dollar. The quarter did not sell, but the Liberty Seated dollar did.

1840	Seated dollar	PCGS CAC	AU58+	\$5,522.
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Goldberg's Pre-Long Beach Auction, January 27-28, Los Angeles. Only a few Liberty Seated coins were in this auction and many of them were common dates, but an uncirculated 1844 dime stands out. This date has been known for many years as the "Little Orphan Annie" dime. Frank Ross, a dealer/hoarder from Kansas City, began promoting this coin in the 1930s and apparently made it a profitable experience. Other hoarding of this coin has occurred, with the most well-known example being a single lot of 612 dimes grading from P1 to AU53 in a July 2003 Heritage auction. Not surprisingly this lot did not sell with a \$158,000 reserve. However, this coin, as an uncirculated example, is one of the scarcer pre-Civil War Liberty Seated dimes.

1844	dime	NGC	MS64	\$10,200.
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**Selected results from the Heritage Signature Auction - FUN Show, January 9-14, Orlando.**

1844-O	half dime	PCGS	EF40	\$960.	
1856-S	dime	PCGS	AU55	\$2,400.	F-101
1843-O	quarter	PCGS	AU53	\$1,680.	Small O, Briggs 1-B
1850-O	quarter	PCGS CAC	AU58	\$3,120.	
1856-S	quarter	PCGS	XF45	\$1,680.	Briggs 2-C
1859-S	quarter	PCGS	VG10	\$552.	
1860-S	quarter	PCGS	VF35	\$5,040.	
1861-S	quarter	NGC	VF35	\$2,160.	Briggs 2-B
1862-S	quarter	PCGS	MS61	\$3,120.	
1862-S	quarter	PCGS CAC	MS63	\$8,100.	Briggs 1-A
1870-CC	quarter	PCGS	G4	\$6,300.	
1870-CC	quarter	PCGS	VF20	\$16,800.	
1872-CC	quarter	PCGS	G4	\$1,560.	
1872-CC	quarter	PCGS	VG8	\$2,040.	
1872-S	quarter	PCGS	AG3	\$1920.	
1840-(O)	half dollar	PCGS	XF45	\$1,740.	WB-4, medium letters rev.
1840-(O)	half dollar	PCGS	AU55	\$5,040.	WB-4, medium letters rev.
1842-O SD	half dollar	PCGS	XF45	\$2,880.	WB-2, small date & letters
1842-O SD	half dollar	NGC	AU58	\$5,760.	WB-1, small date & letters
1855-S	half dollar	PCGS	AU53	\$5,520.	WB-4
1855-S	half dollar	NGC	AU55	\$7,200.	WB-4
1878-S	half dollar	PCGS	AU det	\$60,000.	AU details
1878-S	half dollar	PCGS	AU55	\$78,000.	
1850	Seated dollar	PCGS	AU55	\$3,840.	
1855	Seated dollar	PCGS	XF40	\$3,360.	OC-1
1856	Seated dollar	PCGS	XF40	\$2,640.	OC-1
1856	Seated dollar	NGC	AU55	\$2,880.	OC-1
1862	Seated dollar	NGC	AU50	\$3,120.	
1863	Seated dollar	PCGS	VF35	\$1,620.	OC-1
1878-CC	Trade dollar	PCGS CAC	MS65	\$192,000.	



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Dr. Eugene Bruder is constantly updating his website, www.typecoins.com, which features a nice selection of bust and seated material for sale. You can reach him at 402-475-0350 or email at: gene@typecoins.com.

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Rotated Reverse Seated Dimes Wanted. I am looking for rotated reverse Liberty Seated dimes. Any interested parties can email Jason Feldman at jason@seated.org

Brian Greer, well known dealer, collector, and numismatist, has an extensive listing of many new dates and varieties listed on his website. Check them out at: <http://www.briangreerarerecoins.com/>.

Liberty Seated Dime Die Varieties Wanted. I am paying high prices for Seated Dimes with major cuds, die cracks, and rotated reverses. Contact David Thomas at davethomas333@hotmail.com or 1-714-872-2772.

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LSCC Mission

To encourage, promote, and dispense numismatic knowledge of the Liberty Seated coins; to cultivate fraternal relations among its members and all those interested in the science of numismatics.

LSCC website: www.lsccweb.org

LSCC email address: lscc@lsccweb.org

LSCC Membership Information. Dues are bargain priced at \$25 per year and include three issues of the *Gobrecht Journal*, an award winning numismatic publication. To join the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, for *Gobrecht Journal*/mailing address changes, or for other membership questions, correspond with the LSCC Secretary/Treasurer.

Articles, comments, or advertisements for publication in the *Gobrecht Journal* may be addressed to the LSCC Publications Editor.

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Wanted: Material for this newsletter!

Please consider submitting something for print. It need not be elaborate; it can be something as simple as a short note on your favorite variety, neat find, nice cherry pick, happenings at a coin show, rare Liberty Seated coinage coming up for auction, etc. If you are interested in it, rest assured, others will be too! Sharing information is a goal of this newsletter and you need not be an experienced or famous writer to submit something. This is a continuing plea.

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